

Mississippi Public Service Commission



BRIAN U. RAY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
(601) 961-5400

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JAN 24 2006

FCC - MAILROOM

NIELSEN COCHRAN, CHAIRMAN
JACKSON-FIRST DISTRICT
BO ROBINSON, VICE-CHAIRMAN
HAMILTON-THIRD DISTRICT

LYNN CARLISLE
SENIOR ATTORNEY
JOEL BENNETT, DIR.
FINANCE & PERSONNEL
MARK McCARVER, DIR.
GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

January 23, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Karen Majcher
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street NW - Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Certification of Rate Comparability Review for Non-Rural Carriers Serving in Rural Areas in
Mississippi - Docket 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

Pursuant to Section 54.316 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules, the Mississippi Public Service Commission has reviewed the comparability of residential rates in rural areas of the State of Mississippi served by non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs") to urban rates nationwide.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission has determined that the rates charged by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), the State's sole ILEC, in the rural areas of the state fall within the safe harbor provisions of the FCC's rules. The nationwide urban benchmark for rates in effect on July 1, 2005, is \$34.21. As demonstrated on Attachment 1 of this filing, BellSouth's rates applicable to Montgomery County fall well below this benchmark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nielsen Cochran".
Nielsen Cochran, Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bo Robinson".
Bo Robinson, Commissioner

Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

**Comparison of Mississippi's Rural, High Cost Area Rates to the FCC's "Safe Harbor" Benchmark
(as of July 1, 2005)**

FCC "Safe Harbor" Benchmark*

Representative Monthly Charge

Flat rate service which includes Touch Tone service	\$ 14.53
Subscriber Line Charge	\$ 5.81
Taxes, 911 and Other Charges	\$ 3.97
 Average Monthly Charge for Residential Service	 \$ 24.31
 Weighted Standard Deviation	 \$ 4.95
 Average + 2* (Std Dev)	 \$ 34.21

Mississippi Rural High Cost Rates (Duckhill, Montgomery County)

Rate for a Line with access to the Public Switched Network

Flat rate service for residential customers	\$ 16.20
Touchtone	\$ -
Unlimited Local Calling	\$ -
Sub-total A	\$ 16.20
 Federal Subscriber Line Charge	 \$ 6.50
State Subscriber Line Charge	\$ -
Federal Universal Service Fund Charge	\$ 0.66
State Universal Service Fund Charge	\$ -
Local Number Portability Charge	\$ -
Telecommunications Relay Charge	\$ 0.07
MS Emergency Telecommunicator Training Charge	\$ 0.05
Sub-total B	\$ 7.28
 911 Charges	 \$ 0.80
Federal Universal Service Charge Credits (if any)	\$ -
State Universal Service Charge Credits (if any)	\$ -
Sub-total C	\$ 0.80
 Federal Excise Tax (3% of Sub-total A & B)	 Sub-total D \$ 0.70
Total	\$ 24.98